

COOK AND NEIGHBORS SWEAR STEVENS WAS FISHING ON BEACH MURDER NIGHT

Simpson Attack Fails Except on Minor Details

By LEO J. CASEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 22.—The alibi of Harry Stevens—that he was fishing the night of the Hall-Mills murders—stood the fierce onslaughts of an embittered prosecution today.

Although succeeding in shaking a few of the defense witnesses in the minor details of their stories, Special Prosecutor Simpson was unable to make any definite inroads into their statements that Henry was on the beach at Lavallette the evening of September 14, 1922.

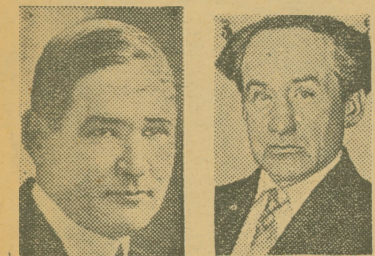
As the court adjourned this afternoon for the luncheon recess the general opinion was that the claim of Stevens, raised during his testimony on Saturday, had been considerably strengthened.

Prosecutor Nettled

His inability to break through the alibi barrier, which he found rising across the road to a conviction, appeared to nettle the special prosecutor. He stormed and he raged. He shook his fists in the air and stamped his feet—but all to no apparent avail.

The wily senator resorted to technical and involved questions which he believed might be too much for the simple minds of some of the witnesses, but even these could not be employed as stepping stones to reach the heart of the alibi testimony.

The court room was packed when Mrs. Anna Evanson, the cook employed by Henry Stevens, took the stand and corroborated his statements of Saturday that he spent



Gov. A. Harry Moore

Alexander Simpson

the fatal night with friends and neighbors at Lavallette, where he made his home.

Traces Actions

She traced the actions of the defendant, who is on trial with his brother, Willie, and sister, Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, through the entire day of September 14, 1922, until that evening. The last time she saw him was when, leaving the Stevens home at 7 p. m., he was talking with neighbors on the beach.

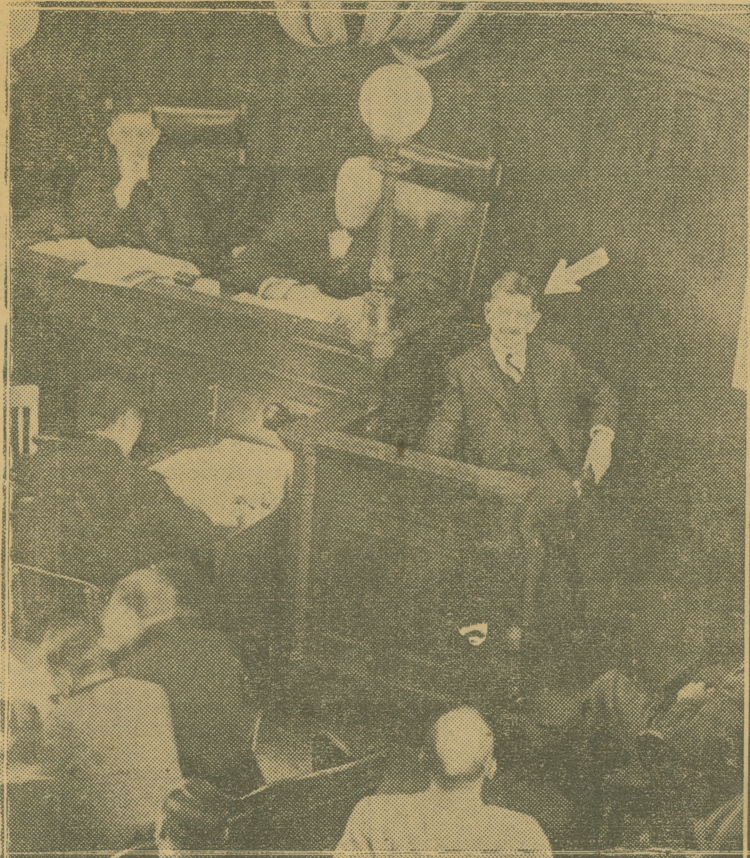
The following morning Henry was up and about the house when she arrived. That was the morning a prosecution witness swore she had seen him in New Brunswick, fifty miles away.

Unconcerned at her own importance, presenting a striking contrast to the state's star witness, Mrs. Jane Gibson, the cook went on in her humdrum way, until taken in hand by Simpson for cross-examination.

In a voice edged like a razor, he tried to shake her statements, but found them as adamant as if carved from marble. She denied having been in hiding since August. She explained she had never spoken to Felix Di Martini or any other private detective about the case.

Two Philadelphia business men,

Not at Crime Scene



CORROBORATION OF HIS ALIBI that he was fishing on the night of the murders of Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills was offered by servants of Henry Stevens's household at this morning's hearing. State received big blow as result of today's testimony and developments. Henry Stevens (arrow) is shown asserting his innocence on the witness stand. (Photo Graphic.)

each maintaining a home in Lavallette, added their corroboration to the stories of Stevens. One was positive of passing within nine feet of the defendant at 9.55 p. m. that night, a few minutes before the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills were murdered many miles away.

The other testified he had seen Stevens on the beach the evening of September 14, 1922, and the following morning as well. He could fix the date definitely because he had undergone an operation on the 13th. Under cross-examination Senator Simpson tried to attack the credibility of the witness by making him admit he was too sick after the operation to leave his house.

A woman, who had gone to the waterfront with her husband and young son, came here from Lavallette to support the alibi. The husband, subjected to a blistering and hectic interrogation at the hands of Simpson, became somewhat abashed during the proceedings, but stuck to his story that it was the night of the murders he had seen Henry angling.

The witness was asked concerning a statement he had made in which he is said to have set forth he couldn't tell whether it was September 14 or 15 that he encountered Stevens. His mind was hazy about the conditions under which it was made, although he recalled being called a "damn liar" by a police official, he said.

Cook Aids Stevens

Mrs. Anna Evanson, cook in the Lavallette home of Henry Stevens at the time of the murders, was the first witness. A wrinkled little woman in black, she had come to help clear her former employer of the murder charge against him.

Q. Do you remember Thursday, September 14, 1922. A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember you got supper? A. Yes.

Q. What time did he have supper? A. Six o'clock.

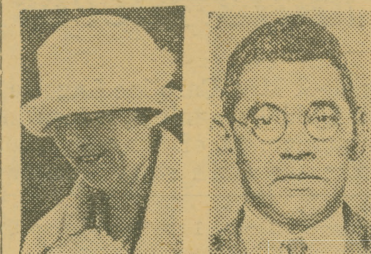
The witness said she left the house at 7 p. m.; that on her way home she saw her employer on the beach.

She arrived at the Stevens home

shortly after 9.30 o'clock Friday morning and again observed Henry there. Mrs. Mary Demarest, state's witness, has testified that she saw Stevens in New Brunswick Friday morning.

Q. What time did you arrive Saturday morning? A. About 9 o'clock.

Mrs. Evanson then testified of her employer's leaving for New Brunswick Saturday afternoon. The departure, Stevens testified in his own behalf Saturday, was in response to a telegram from Edwin



Mrs. Henry Carpenter

Felix Di Martini

Carpenter informing him of Dr. Hall's death.

No Other Servants

"Were there any other servants in the house?" Simpson asked. "No."

Q. Have you been home since this inquiry began last August? A. I have been away two weeks, with friends, the Johnsons, in Beech-haven.

Q. How long have you been in Somerville? A. Four days.

Q. Where have you been staying? A. With a lady by the name of Fannie, in Bound Brook.

Q. Who told you to go there? A. Mrs. Henry Stevens.

Q. Did anybody before today talk to you of this date? A. No.

Q. Although Mr. Stevens has been indicted for murder, nobody has talked to you until today of September 14, 1922? A. No.

Simpson attempted last week to locate Mrs. Evanson in Lavallette. His detectives were unable to find her there.

Can't Remember Dates

The Stevens cook was lost when Simpson asked her to give the date

Pig Woman Near Death; Collapse Follows Trip To Court in Ambulance

The moving hand of destiny, which for four hectic years has shaped her career, is prepared to pen "finis" to Mrs. Jane Gibson's activities.

An unexpected relapse has brought the "pig woman" to death's door in Jersey City Hospital, to which she was returned after testifying from a cot at the Hall-Mills trial in Somerville.

Already forgotten by the world in which she created a furor for a few brief hours, the eccentric woman farmer is reported sinking under a complication of diseases. Doctors are in constant attendance, but none would vouchsafe an opinion this afternoon as to the outcome.

Mrs. Jane Gibson

Despite the reticence of the medical men, it has been learned that all hope of her recovery has been abandoned. The end, it is believed, is only a little way off.

Strain Too Great

This afternoon rumors spread that her trip to Somerville in an ambulance, the ordeal to which she was subjected in the court room and the return journey had been more than her weakened body could endure. On this phase, like the others, the doctors refused to comment.

Those who have access to the sick room say Mrs. Gibson realizes her time is short, but expresses no regret. She lived for her day in court, and having won that, is content to go the way of all flesh.

of the Monday preceding the Thursday of the murder. The prosecutor remarked on Mrs. Evanson's inability to remember any date but September 14, and Senator Case was continually on his feet to give his witness a breathing spell from the rigorous cross-examination.

"What was the day of the month of the Thursday in the second week before this Thursday?" Simpson went on.

"I don't remember," was the answer.

Q. What was the day of the month of the third Thursday in August, 1922? A. I don't remember.

Simpson showed that while Mrs. Evanson recalled the time of various occurrences on September 14 and September 15, testimony vital to Henry Stevens's defense,



Timothy Pfeiffer

Mrs. Hall

she could not remember what she served for meals.

Left at 7 o'Clock

Q. What time did you leave the house that night? A. Seven o'clock.

Q. Did you look at a clock? A. Yes.

Q. Why? Did you think you would have to testify? A. I always looked at the clock; I worked by the hour.

Simpson was trying desperately to confuse the old lady.

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Willie Will Defy Simpson on Stand, Counsel Declares

By JACK MILEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 22.—Willie Stevens is going to match his childish brain against that of Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson.

Announcement that the simple-minded brother of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and Henry Stevens, the two other defendants, will take the witness stand came today from Robert K. Nielson.

In an interview last night Simpson declared he had positive information that the defense would not take a chance on allowing Willie to be cross-examined.

Bunk, Says Lawyer

"If Senator Simpson is correctly quoted that he has received reports that Mr. William Stevens will not testify he again has been given what is known in the vernacular as bunk, and he has swallowed it hook, line and sinker," declared Mr. Nielson, one of the defense counsel.

"Mr. William Stevens at the proper time will take the stand, as already has been stated by the defense."

Rumors that Mrs. Hall would be a witness today brought all of Somerville's curious to the court house. Before 9 o'clock all seats were filled and the corridors were jammed. The people overflowed on to the lawn, waiting patiently in the biting November air for the arrival of the principals in the murder trial.

A statement from defense counsel indicated that the woman defendant will not be called before a day or two, probably not until after Willie.

It is believed that most of today's session will be consumed by alibi witnesses, who are expected to testify that Henry Stevens was fishing at Lavallette the night the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills were slain on the old Phillips farm.

THE WEATHER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1926



U. S. WEATHER FORECAST

LOCAL NEW YORK—Mostly cloudy tonight and Tuesday; slightly warmer tonight; colder Tuesday night.

EASTERN NEW YORK—Mostly cloudy tonight and Tuesday, with snow flurries in extreme north portion; warmer tonight in extreme south portion; fresh, possibly strong, southwest and west winds.

Hour.	Temp.	Weath.	Barom.	Wind.
Midnight.	34	Clear	30.22	NW. 20
2 a. m.	32	Clear	30.25	W. 18
4 a. m.	32	Clear	30.28	W. 12
6 a. m.	30	Clear	30.32	W. 12
8 a. m.	29	Clear	30.32	W. 12
10 a. m.	34	Clear	30.32	W. 15